

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03175 221610Z

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DEPARTMENT PASS J.R. PETERSON, U.S. SEISMOLOGICAL
CENTER, EAST ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, TPHY, TU, US

SUBJ: SEISMIC RESEARCH OBSERVATORIES PROGRAM (490)

1. MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (METU) HAS RECEIVED BILL OF LADING ON SEISMOLOGICAL MATERIAL SHIPPED FROM HOUSTON ON MARCH 28. SINCE METU FORESEES SOME PROBLEMS WITH CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, EMBOFF ASKED FOR MEETING WITH METU OFFICE OF FOREIGN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CLARIFICATION.

2. METU OFFICIAL ASKED WHETHER ITEMS LISTED IN APRIL 9 BILL OF LADING CONSTITUTE FULL SHIPMENT FOR METU SROP AND WHETHER TITLE FOR ALL THE LISTED ITEMS WAS BEING TRANSFERRED TO METU OR DID THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WANT TO MAINTAIN TITLE TO SOME ITEMS.

3. METU OFFICIAL EXPLAINED FOLLOWING. METU IMPORTS DUTY-FREE, BUT EVERY TURKISH INSTITUTION MUST PAY STAMP TAX OF NINE TO TEN PERCENT CIF AD VALOREM. METU WILL PAY THIS TAX ON ITEMS WHERE TITLE IS BEING TRANSFERRED TOX357. PROBLEM ARISES, HOWEVER, IF USGS DESIRES MAINTAIN TITLE TO SOME EQUIPMENT. ACCORDING TO METU THIS WOULD MEAN THAT USGS WOULD NEED TO PAY GUARANTEE EQUIVALENT TO FULL CUSTOMS DUTY TO ENSURE RE-EXPORT OF EQUIPMENT WHEREUPON DUTY WOULD BE REIMBURSED. EMB IS CHECKING WITH USAID ON WAYS IT HANDLED
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 03175 221610Z

SIMILAR REGULATIONS IN THE PAST AS GUIDELINES FOR THIS TRANS-

ACTION.

4. IN ANY CASE METU SAYS IT WILL NEED TO KNOW VALUE OF ITEMS AS LISTED ON BILL OF LADING FOR CUSTOMS PURPOSES AND PAYMENT OF STANP TAX. METU OFFICIAL SUGGESTED THAT INVOICE STATEMENT OF VALUE OF EQUIPMENT SHIPPED SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT. SINCE PRESUMABLY SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT IS USED, THE VALUATION COULD BE RELATIVELY LOW. ON NEW EQUIPMENT, HOWEVER, PROCUREMENT VALUE SHOULD BE USED.

5. EMB UNFAMILIAR HOW MUCH OF ABOVE IS KNOWN TO USGS AS RESULT OF PREVIOUS CONTACTS WITH METU. IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE DELIVERY AT CHEAPEST POSSIBLE COST, EMB WOULD APPRECIATE USGS COMMENTS ON QUESTIONS OUTLINED ABOVE. EMB ALSO SUGGESTS THAT ANY DOCUMENTS DEALING WITH VALUATION OF SHIPMENTSNE PASSED TO EMB INITIALLY RATHER THAN TO METU. THIS WILL GIVE EMB OPPORTUNITY IF NEEDED TO WORK OUT PROCEDURES WITH BOTH CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT AND METU AND HOPEFULLY PREVENT UNNECESSARY COSTS OR DELAYS FOR PROGRAM. MACOMBER

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